

EXTENSION OF ACT RELATING TO PREVENTING THE
PUBLICATION OF INVENTIONS IN THE NATIONAL
INTEREST

APRIL 6 (legislative day MARCH 30), 1942.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. BONE, from the Committee on Patents, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2427]

The Committee on Patents, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2427) to amend the act relating to preventing the publication of inventions in the national interest, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon, without amendment, and recommend that the bill be passed.

Under date of March 24, 1942, the Honorable Wayne C. Taylor, Acting Secretary of Commerce, addressed a letter to the President of the Senate, calling attention to the importance of extending the act relating to preventing the publication of inventions in the national interest. The letter reads as follows:

The honorable the PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On July 1, 1940, the President approved legislation passed by Congress amending the act relating to preventing the publication of inventions in the national interest, authorizing the Commissioner of Patents to order that an invention disclosed in an application be kept secret and to withhold the grant of a patent whenever the publication or disclosure of the invention by the granting of a patent might be detrimental to the public safety or defense. The law is identified as Public, No. 700, Seventy-sixth Congress.

On September 20, 1941, this law was amended to impose penalties for violations of the orders of secrecy issued in accordance with Public, No. 700, and to require that every person who files an application for patent in any foreign country in respect of an invention made in the United States must first secure a license from the Commissioner of Patents.

In the administration of these laws restrictions have been applied to numerous patent applications preventing disclosure in this country and abroad of inventions of great importance to the war effort. Before the declaration of war the amended act proved immensely effective in maintaining inventions in secrecy in the interest of national defense and since the declaration of war its use has become so extensive that to permit the act to expire would be no less than disastrous.

2 EXTEND ACT RELATING TO PUBLICATION OF INVENTIONS

Section 2 of Public, No. 700 reads as follows:

"SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect on approval and shall remain in force for a period of two years from such date."

Since the act was approved July 1, 1940, it will expire on July 1, 1942.

It is of paramount importance to the war effort that the act be extended so that it will be effective at least throughout the duration of the war.

It is requested, therefore, that the attached bill be enacted to extend the life of the act so that it will be effective throughout the duration of the war. The provisions of this bill could be administered without additional appropriations under the present conditions.

Sincerely yours,

WAYNE C. TAYLOR,
Acting Secretary of Commerce.

